

REMARKS

The presently claimed invention is directed to a ring-opened polynorbornene (Claims 1-8) and a process for making the same (Claims 9-16). It is noted that the ring-opened polynorbornene according to Claim 1 has superior heat stability and storage stability and is suitable for optical usage.

The rejection of any one of Claims 1-8 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b), or in the alternative under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a), over the disclosure of US 3,959,234 ("Kurosawa") is respectfully traversed.

Kurosawa does not disclose hydrogenation of the product of the ring-opening reaction. Accordingly, Kurosawa does not disclose a ring-opened polynorbornene having a structural unit (I) in which the X¹ is an ethylene group. It may be true that Kurosawa discloses a ring-opening product that contains a vinylene component in its backbone (see Kurosawa at col. 13, lines 25-45). However, there is no suggestion to hydrogenate the vinylene group to an ethylene group.

However, this is unlike the ring-opened polynorbornene recited in Claim 1, which has a structural unit (I) in which X¹ is an ethylene group, which is converted by hydrogenation of a vinylene group. In this regard, the Examiner's attention is directed to the specification text at page 41, lines 18-27 of the description as filed.

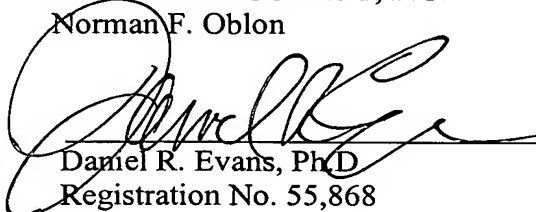
The objections to the Claims and Specification are believed to be overcome by amendment. It is respectfully requested that the Examiner withdraw these objections.

Respectfully submitted,

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